



Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust

Lowland mesic forests are found on sites with moderate to high levels of soil moisture usually along floodplains and swamps or in other low lying areas. These fertile deciduous forests adapt to great extremes in moisture, ranging from spring flood- ing to summer drought. Cooler air settles or drains through these areas creating temperate areas that support rich forest floor and understory growth.

arch over sections of the trail and are in full bloom in June. The walk can be extended to include a visit to the Donnelly Memorial bench near old West Side Cemetery. The Memorial is accessed via a path at the end of the St. Francis Woods Road cul-de-sac which ascends through the woods and then quickly emerges into a mowed area. The path continues along the west side of the cemetery and leads to a sitting bench. The bench was placed in honor of Richard D. Donnelly a founding member of the Madison Land Trust and its first vice-president. The West Side Cemetery, founded in 1754, still bears the names of some of Madison's residents. The first person buried in the cemetery was Demetrius Crompton who was killed by a falling tree limb.

St. Francis Woods is a 1 mile loop trail that offers exposure to a variety of natural settings. It provides an excellent experience for a family outing, although it is not suitable for very small children. The trail passes through a lowland mesic forest, abuts a valley floodplain and a beautiful stream, then ascends to and progresses along a rocky ridge before descending once more to the lower valley. St Francis Woods offers a peaceful environment of predominantly native species. Understory shrubs include spicebush, sweet pepper-bush, witch hazel, and wild azalea. Native trees include swamp red maple, beech, hickories, large chestnut oak, and some sugar maple. Mountain laurel thickets

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ST. FRANCIS WOODS

Madison, CT

Directions and Parking:

For the St. Francis Woods—take Route 80 and turn south on Race Hill Road, then travel west on Bradley Corners Road to St. Francis Woods Road. Park along the road near the trailhead on the right.

Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT properties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.

This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



The descriptive information for this trail is excerpted from the MLCT's Madison Trails Guide.

South Central Regional Council of Governments

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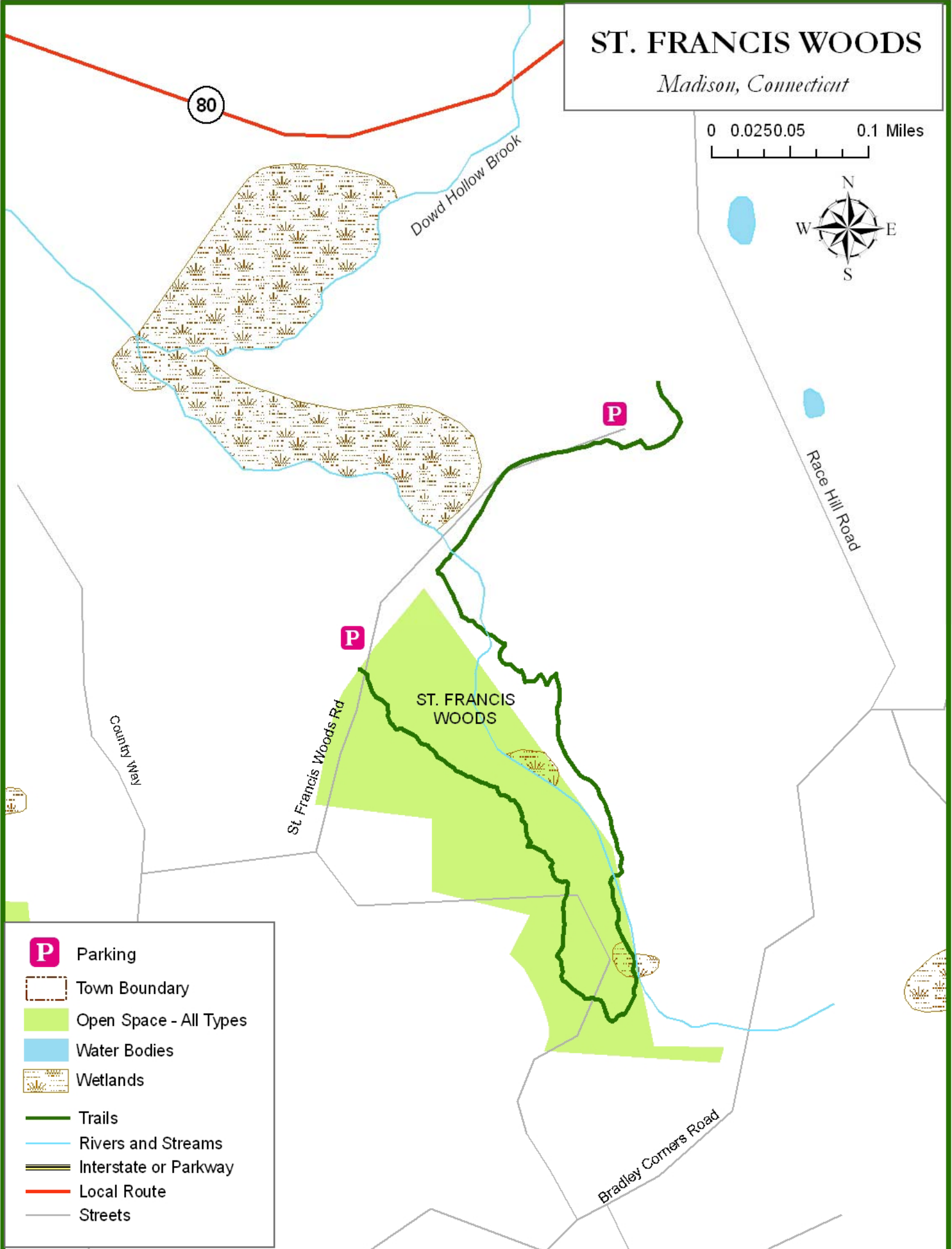
For more information about this location, contact:

Madison Land Conservation Trust
www.madisonlandtrust.org

ST. FRANCIS WOODS

Madison, Connecticut

0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



- Parking
- Town Boundary
- Open Space - All Types
- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Trails
- Rivers and Streams
- Interstate or Parkway
- Local Route
- Streets